LISTING OF THE CLAIMS

1. (Previously presented) A method, comprising:

defining an access point (AP) nonce of an AP; and

in response to a probe request, transmitting, from the AP, the AP nonce in a probe response.

2. (Previously presented) A method as claimed in claim 1, further comprising receiving, by the AP, a pairwise master key based information element as a reassociate request from a user station that received the transmitted AP nonce, wherein the user station generates the pairwise master key based information element based on the AP nonce transmitted in the probe response, a user station nonce, and a message integrity code, the message integrity code being derived from the pairwise master key.

3. (Previously presented) A method as claimed in claim 2, further comprising:

generating, by the AP, a pairwise master key response element based on the user station nonce and an additional message integrity code, the additional message integrity code being derived from the pairwise master key; and

transmitting, by the AP, the pairwise master response element as a reassociation response.

4. (Previously presented) A method as claimed in claim 3, further comprising communicating, by the AP, with the user station after the user station receives the reassociation response.

5. (Previously presented) A method, comprising:

transmitting, by a user station, a probe request to an access point (AP);

defining an AP nonce of the AP; and

receiving, by the user station, the AP nonce transmitted from the AP in response to the probe request.

6. (Previously presented) A method as claimed in claim 5, further comprising:

generating, by the user station, a pairwise master key based information element based on the AP nonce transmitted in the probe response, a user station nonce, and a message integrity code, the message integrity code being derived from the pairwise master key; and

transmitting, by the user station, the pairwise master key based information element as a reassociate request to the AP.

7. (Previously presented) A method as claimed in claim 6, further comprising receiving, by the user station, a pairwise master key response element from the AP, wherein the pairwise master key is a response element that is transmitted by the AP as a reassociation response and is based on the user station nonce and an additional message integrity code, the additional message integrity code being derived from the pairwise master key.

8. (Previously presented) A method as claimed in claim 7, further comprising communicating, by the user station, with the AP after receiving the reassociation response.

9. (Previously presented) An article of manufacture comprising a storage medium having stored thereon instructions that, when executed by a computing platform, result in an authenticated key exchange, by:

defining an access point (AP) nonce of an AP;

transmitting, from the AP the AP nonce in a probe response in response to a probe request.

10. (Previously presented) An article as claimed in claim 9, wherein the instructions, when executed, further result in an authenticated key exchange by receiving, by the AP, a pairwise master key based information element as a reassociate request from a user station that received the transmitted AP nonce, wherein the user station generates the pairwise master key based information element based on the AP nonce transmitted in the probe response, a user station

nonce, and a message integrity code, the message integrity code being derived from the pairwise master key.

11. (Previously presented) An article as claimed in claim 10, wherein the instructions, when executed, further result in an authenticated key exchange by:

generating, by the AP, a pairwise master key response element based on the user station nonce and an additional message integrity code, the additional message integrity code being derived from the pairwise master key; and

transmitting, by the AP, the pairwise master response element as a reassociation response.

12. (Previously presented) An article as claimed in claim 11, wherein the instructions, when executed, further result in an authenticated key exchange by communicating, by the AP, with the user station after the user station receives the reassociation response.

13. (Previously presented) An article of manufacture comprising a storage medium having stored thereon instructions that, when executed by a computing platform, result in an authenticated key exchange, by:

transmitting, by a user station, a probe request to an access point (AP); and

receiving, by the user station, an AP nonce transmitted from the AP in response to the probe request, wherein the AP nonce is defined as a nonce of the AP.

14. (Previously presented) An article as claimed in claim 13, wherein the instructions, when executed, further result in an authenticated key exchange by:

generating, by the user station, a pairwise master key based information element based on the AP nonce transmitted in the probe response, a user station nonce, and a message integrity code, the message integrity code being derived from the pairwise master key; and

transmitting, by the user station, the pairwise master key based information element as a reassociate request to the AP.

15. (Previously presented) An article as claimed in claim 14, wherein the instructions, when executed, further result in an authenticated key exchange by receiving, by the user station, a pairwise master key response element from the AP, wherein the pairwise master key is a response element that is transmitted by the AP as a reassociation response and is based on the user station nonce and an additional message integrity code, the additional message integrity code being derived from the pairwise master key.

16. (Previously presented) An article as claimed in claim 15, wherein the instructions, when executed, further result in an authenticated key exchange by communicating, by the user station, with the AP after receiving the reassociation response.

17. (Previously presented) An apparatus, comprising:

an omnidirectional antenna;

a transceiver coupled to said omnidirectional antenna; and

a baseband processor to generate a probe request to be transmitted to an access point (AP), and to receive an AP nonce transmitted in response to the probe request, wherein the AP nonce is defined as a nonce of the AP.

18. (Previously presented) An apparatus as claimed in claim 17, said baseband processor to generate a pairwise master key based information element based on the AP nonce transmitted in the probe response, an additional nonce, and a message integrity code, the message integrity code being derived from the pairwise master key, the pairwise master key based information element to be transmitted as a reassociate request to the AP.

19. (Previously presented) An apparatus as claimed in claim 18, said baseband processor to receive a pairwise master key response element from the AP, wherein the pairwise master key response element is transmitted by the AP as a reassociation response and is based on the additional nonce and an additional message integrity code, the additional message integrity code being derived from the pairwise master key.

20. (Previously presented) An apparatus as claimed in claim 19, said baseband processor to establish communication with the AP after receiving the reassociation response.